THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
Fantastic Four
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71 FEB
SIZZLING BIG ACTION ISSUE!

THIS IS IT! ONE OF THE FIGHTING F.F.'S GREATEST BATTLES!
...AND SO IT ENDS...
HEARING THE SOUNDS OF A BLUDGEONING BATTLE, SUE RICHARDS BREAKS INTO HER HUSBAND'S LAB...ONLY TO FIND...
REED!! JOHNNY!! BEN MUST HAVE KILLED THEM... BOTH!!
NO!! THEY...THEY'RE ONLY WOUNDED...ALL OF THEM!
BUT WHO...WHAT IS THAT...COMING TOWARDS ME..??
IT'S AN ANDROID... HE CRASHED IN...THROUGH THE OUTSIDE WALL!
ONE OF THE GREATEST ACTION-THRILLERS EVER PRODUCED BY:
STAN LEE (THE MAN) & JACK KIRBY (KING)
EMBELLISHMENT: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

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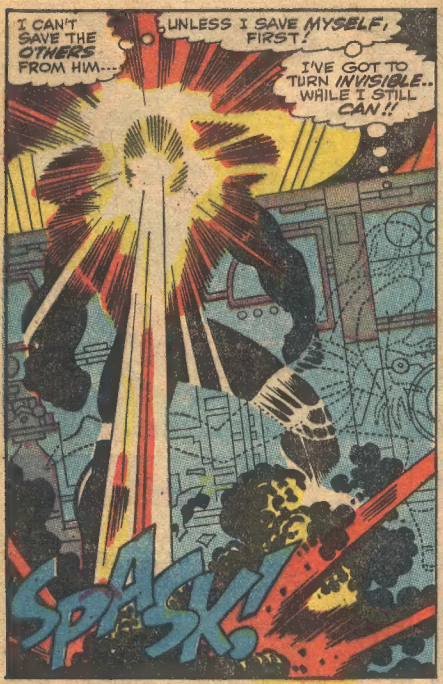
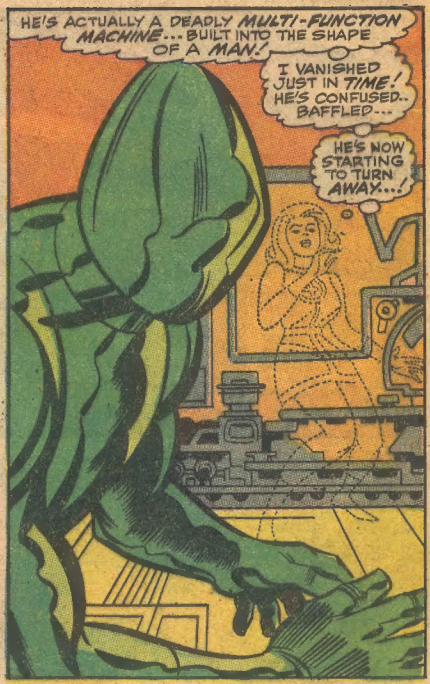
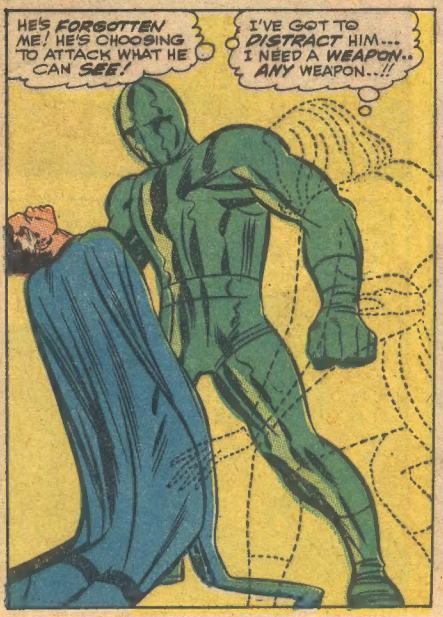
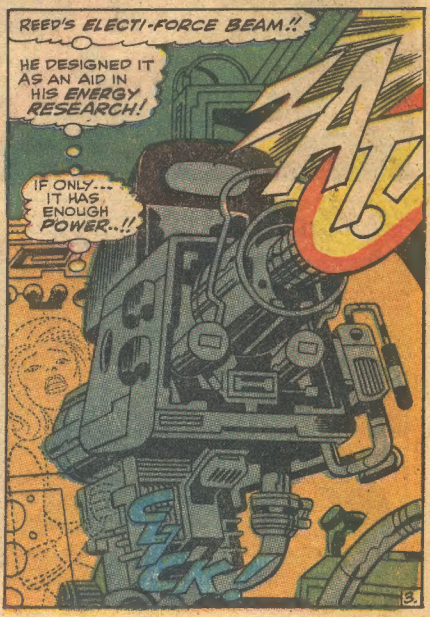
HE'S THE MAD THINKER'S LARGEST... MOST POWERFUL ANDROID OF ALL!
EVEN THOUGH THE THINKER IS IN JAIL... HE MUST HAVE FOUND SOME WAY TO HURL HIM AGAINST US!
INSTANT SUMMARY DEPT.:
THE EVIL MAD THINKER AFFECTED THE BRAIN OF THE THING, TURNING HIM AGAINST THE FF! IN A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO SAVE THEM ALL, REED RICHARDS HURLED A MENTA-WAVE BOLT AT HIM... AND THEN, THE THREE COMBATANTS SLOWLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS!
AND NOW... BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES, HERO!! WE'RE OFF...!!
2.


I CAN'T SAVE THE OTHERS FROM HIM...
UNLESS I SAVE MYSELF, FIRST!
I'VE GOT TO TURN INVISIBLE.. WHILE I STILL CAN!!
SPASK!


HE'S ACTUALLY A DEADLY MULTI-FUNCTION MACHINE... BUILT INTO THE SHAPE OF A MAN!
I VANISHED JUST IN TIME! HE'S CONFUSED.. BAFFLED...
HE'S NOW STARTING TO TURN AWAY...


HE'S FORGOTTEN ME! HE'S CHOOSING TO ATTACK WHAT HE CAN SEE!
I'VE GOT TO DISTRACT HIM... I NEED A WEAPON.. ANY WEAPON..!!


REED'S ELECTI-FORCE BEAM!!
HE DESIGNED IT AS AN AID IN HIS ENERGY RESEARCH!
IF ONLY... IT HAS ENOUGH POWER..!!
ZZZT!
ZAP!

IT WORKED! BUT...
IT GENERATED TOO MUCH POWER!! IT'S CRACKLING THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE LAB..!
IT'S HITTING BEN... LIKE A SUDDEN LIGHTNING BLAST!!
IT'S AFFECTED ALL OF US... EVEN JOHNNY!
BUT IT WAS A STROKE OF LUCK!! IT'S REVIVING THEM ALL!!
THE ANDROID ABSORBED THE MAIN FORCE... BUT, IT DIDN'T HURT HIM!
REED, DARLING... WAKE UP!! HURRY!!
SUE! YOU SAVED US... BY GAINING US TIME!
BUT NOW... TAKE COVER! THE ANDROID SENSES HE MUST DESTROY HIS INVISIBLE ENEMY!
HIS HEAD IS CONVERTING TO RADAR-SCAN FUNCTION... TO PICK UP YOUR IMAGE!!
4.

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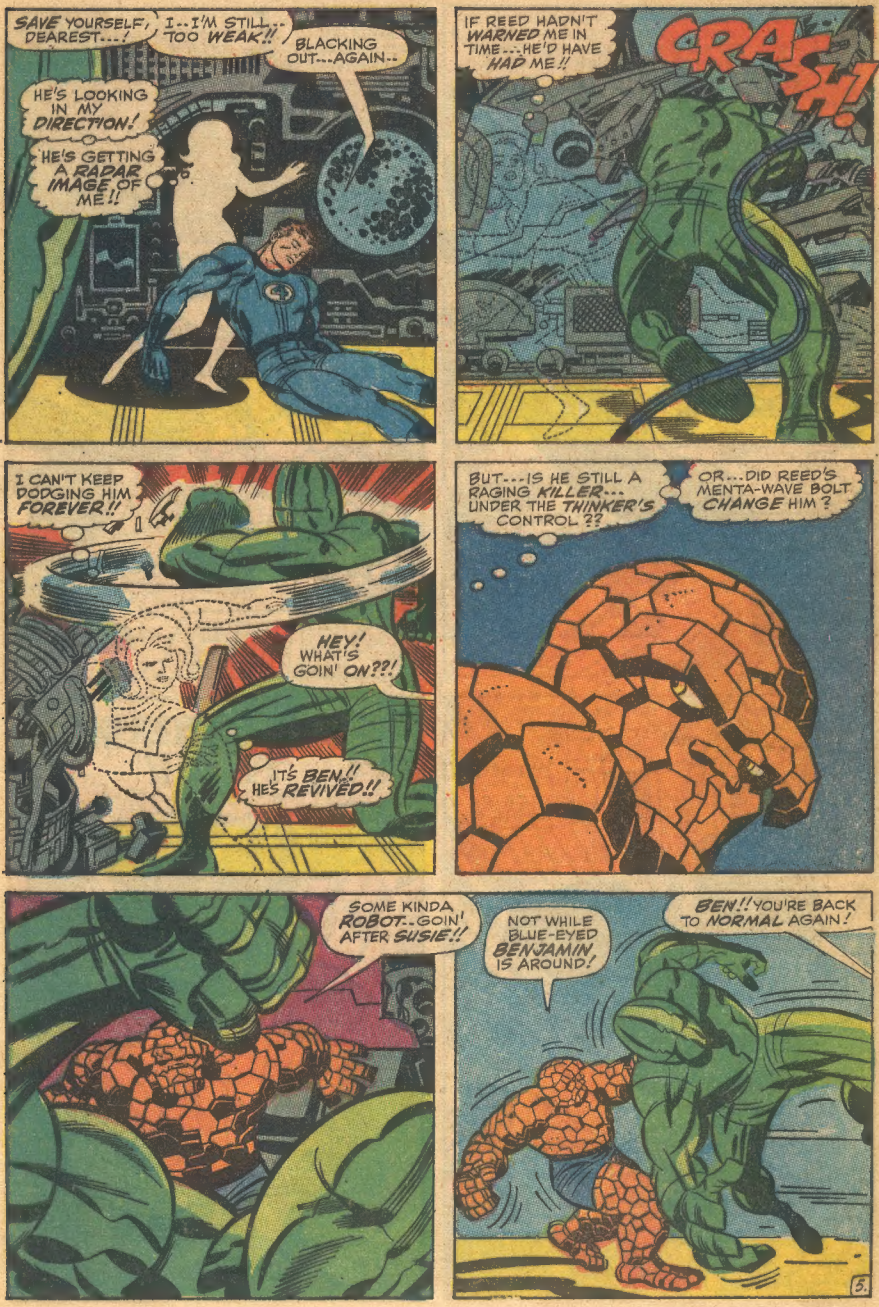
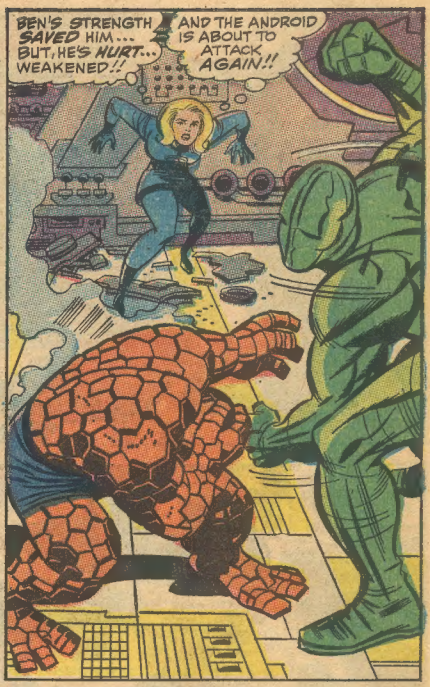
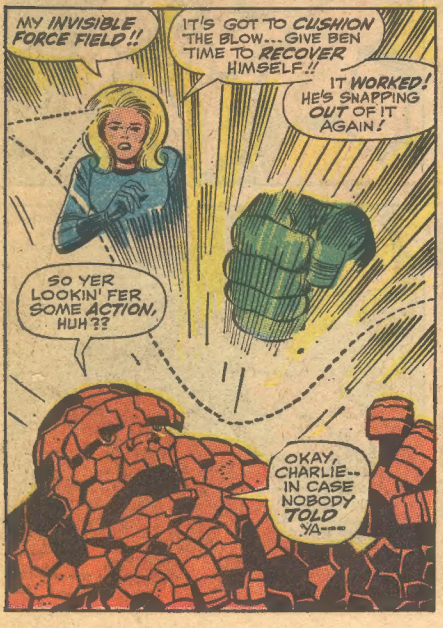

SAVE YOURSELF, DEAREST...!
I--I'M STILL... TOO WEAK!!
BLACKING OUT...AGAIN--
HE'S LOOKING IN MY DIRECTION!
HE'S GETTING A RADAR IMAGE OF ME!!
IF REED HADN'T WARNED ME IN TIME...HE'D HAVE HAD ME!!
CRASH!
I CAN'T KEEP DODGING HIM FOREVER!!
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON??!
IT'S BEN!! HE'S REVIVED!!
BUT...IS HE STILL A RAGING KILLER... UNDER THE THINKER'S CONTROL??
OR...DID REED'S MENTA-WAVE BOLT CHANGE HIM?
SOME KINDA ROBOT--GOIN' AFTER SUSIE!!
NOT WHILE BLUE-EYED BENJAMIN IS AROUND!
BEN!! YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN!
5.

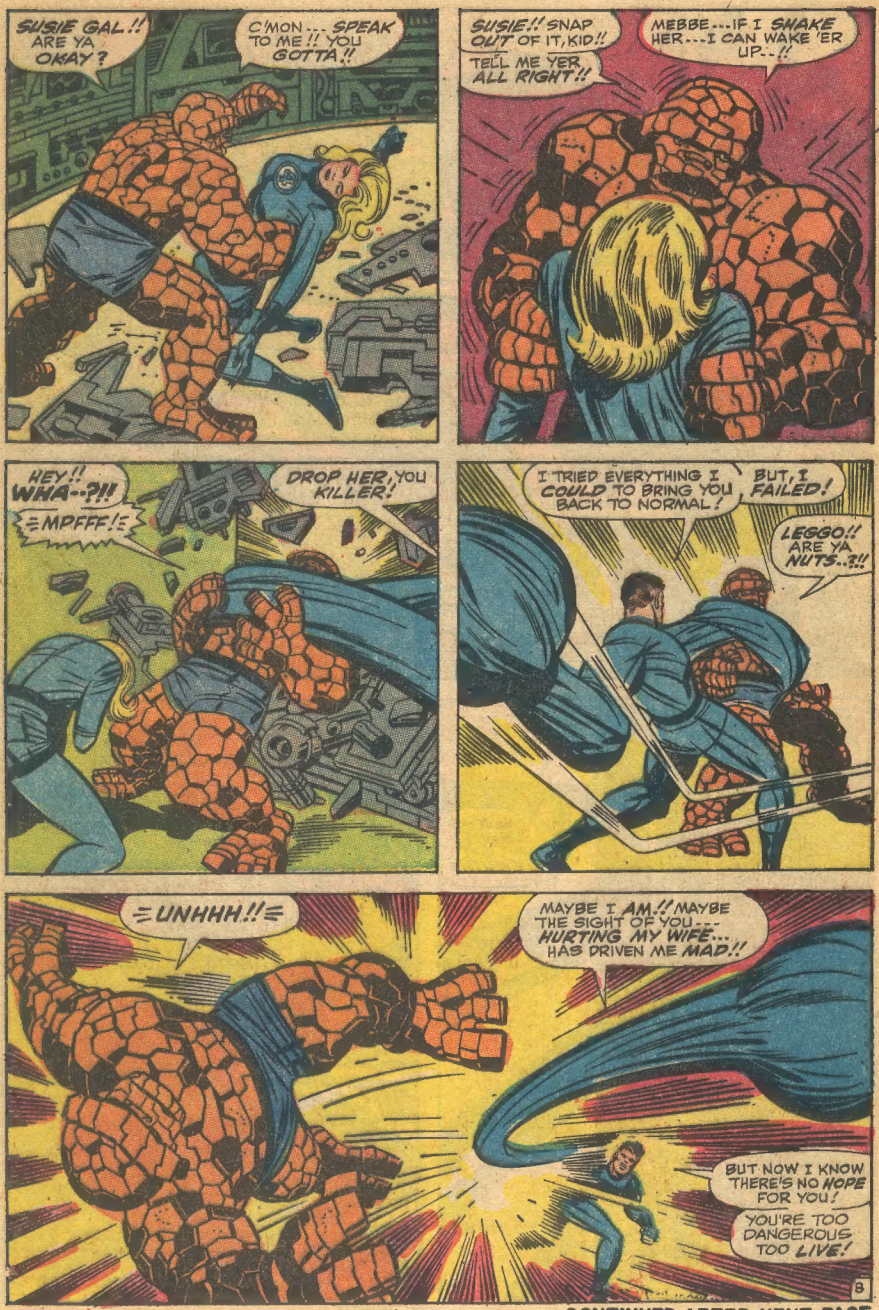
BUT, SUE'S SUDDEN ELATION IS DESTINED TO BE TRAGICALLY SHORT-LIVED--- FOR, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE MIGHTY ANDROID FIRES THE POWER JETS, LOCATED IN ITS BACK, DIRECTLY INTO A STARTLED BEN GRIMM--!
SHOOP!


BEN'S STRENGTH SAVED HIM... BUT, HE'S HURT... WEAKENED!!
AND THE ANDROID IS ABOUT TO ATTACK AGAIN!!


MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!!
IT'S GOT TO CUSHION THE BLOW... GIVE BEN TIME TO RECOVER HIMSELF!!
IT WORKED! HE'S SNAPPING OUT OF IT AGAIN!
SO YER LOOKIN' FER SOME ACTION, HUH??
OKAY, CHARLIE-- IN CASE NOBODY TOLD YA---

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!!

HEY! TAKE IT EASY THERE!!
YA THINK THEM EXPENSIVE WALLS JUST GROW ON BLASTED TREES?!!
THE LEAST HE COULDA DONE WUZ ANSWER A-GUY!
I GUESS HE JUST AIN'T GOT NO COUTH!
NOW, HOW'S ABOUT CLUIN' ME IN, SUSIE?
MY HEAD'S KINDA HAZY ABOUT--- HEY!!
THE KID'S COLLAPSIN'!! IT MUSTA BEEN TOO MUCH FER HER!
7.


SUSIE GAL!! ARE YA OKAY?
C'MON--- SPEAK TO ME!! YOU GOTTA!!
SUSIE!! SNAP OUT OF IT, KID!!
TELL ME YER ALL RIGHT!!
MEBBE---IF I SHAKE HER---I CAN WAKE 'ER UP--!!
HEY!! WHA--?!!
=MPFFF!=
DROP HER, YOU KILLER!
I TRIED EVERYTHING I COULD TO BRING YOU BACK TO NORMAL!
BUT, I FAILED!
LEGGO!! ARE YA NUTS..?!!
=UNHHH!!=
MAYBE I AM!! MAYBE THE SIGHT OF YOU--- HURTING MY WIFE... HAS DRIVEN ME MAD!!
BUT NOW I KNOW THERE'S NO HOPE FOR YOU!
YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS TOO LIVE!
8

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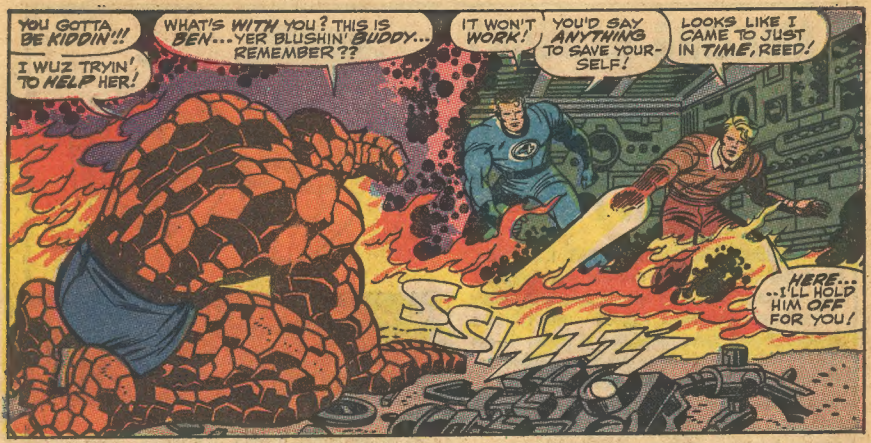
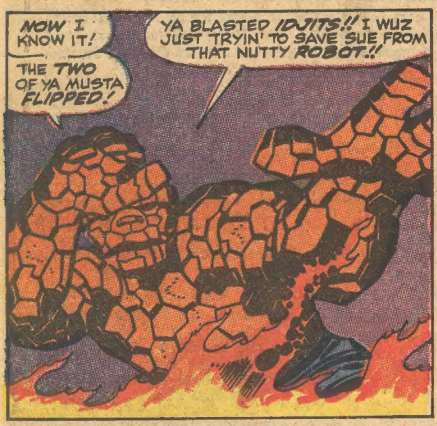
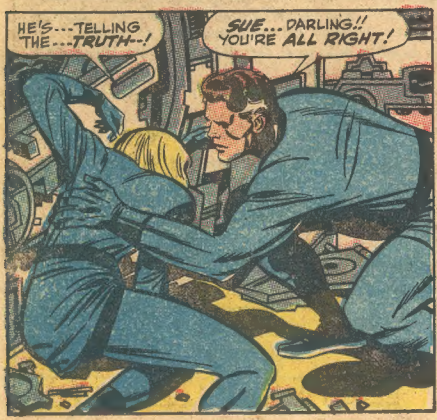
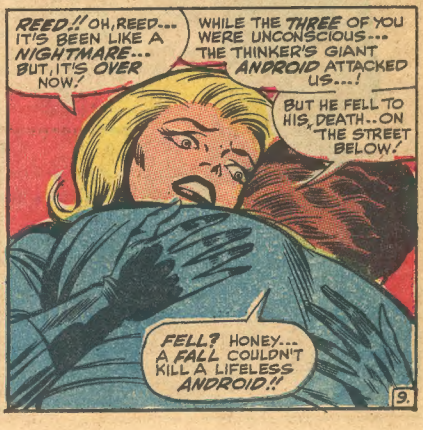
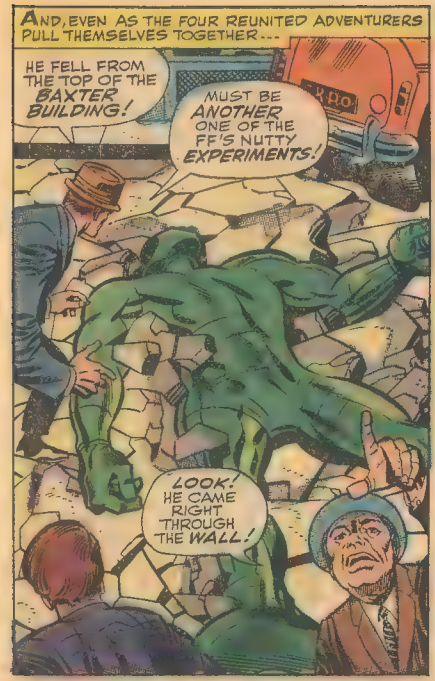

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!!!
I WUZ TRYIN' TO HELP HER!
WHAT'S WITH YOU? THIS IS BEN... YER BLUSHIN' BUDDY... REMEMBER??
IT WON'T WORK!
YOU'D SAY ANYTHING TO SAVE YOURSELF!
LOOKS LIKE I CAME TO JUST IN TIME, REED!
HERE... ..I'LL HOLD HIM OFF FOR YOU!
SIZZZ


NOW I KNOW IT! THE TWO OF YA MUSTA FLIPPED!
YA BLASTED IDJITS!! I WUZ JUST TRYIN' TO SAVE SUE FROM THAT NUTTY ROBOT!!

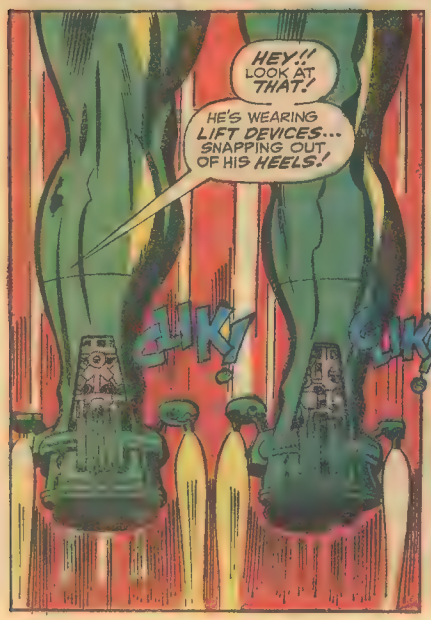
HE LOOKS LIKE HE MEANS IT, REED!
BEN WAS NEVER A LIAR--NO MATTER WHAT!
MAYBE YOUR MENTA-WAVE GIZMO DID WORK!


HE'S--TELLING THE--TRUTH--!
SUE... DARLING!! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!


REED!! OH, REED--- IT'S BEEN LIKE A NIGHTMARE... BUT, IT'S OVER NOW!
WHILE THE THREE OF YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS--- THE THINKER'S GIANT ANDROID ATTACKED US...!
BUT HE FELL TO HIS, DEATH--ON THE STREET BELOW!
FELL? HONEY--- A FALL COULDN'T KILL A LIFELESS ANDROID!!

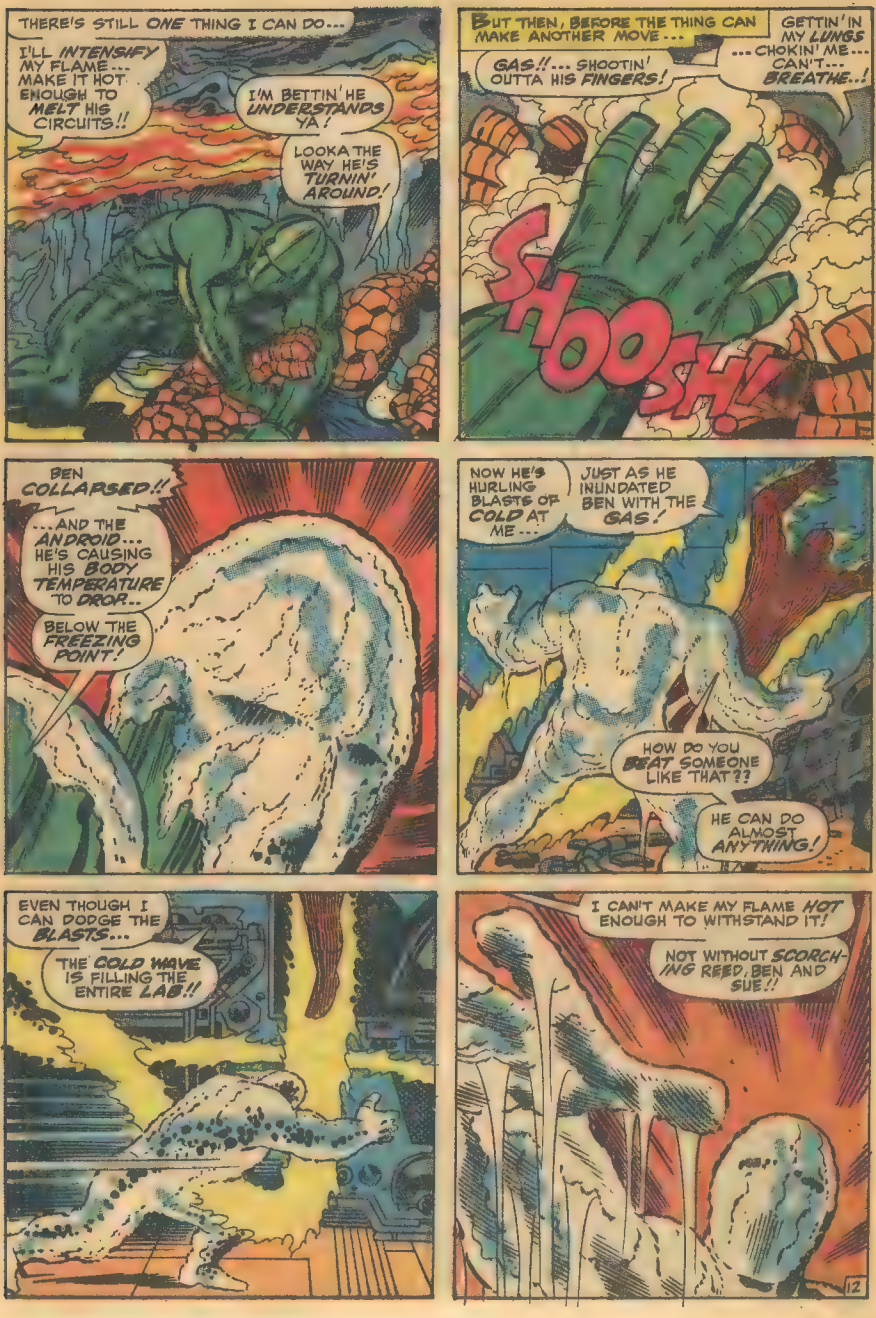

AND, EVEN AS THE FOUR REUNITED ADVENTURERS PULL THEMSELVES TOGETHER---
HE FELL FROM THE TOP OF THE BAXTER BUILDING!
MUST BE ANOTHER ONE OF THE FF'S NUTTY EXPERIMENTS!
LOOK! HE CAME RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!

HEY... LOOK OUT!!
HE'S COMING TO LIFE, AGAIN!!
SOME KINDA POWER JETS... ON HIS BACK... ARE THRUSTING HIM UP!!
GANGWAY! WHATEVER HE'S AFTER, IT AIN'T FLOWER POWER!

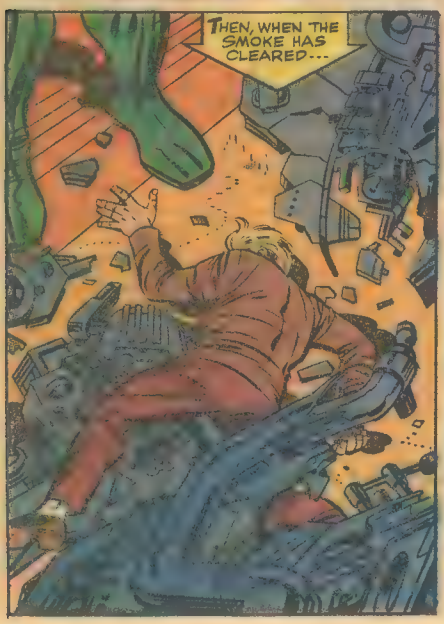

HEY!! LOOK AT THAT!
HE'S WEARING LIFT DEVICES... SNAPPING OUT OF HIS HEELS!
CLIK!
CLIK!

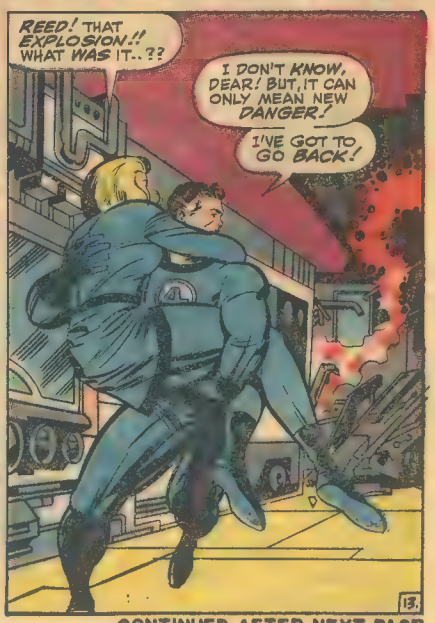
HE'S FLOATING UPWARD... TOWARD THE FF'S PENTHOUSE!
10.

WHILE, ON THE THIRTY-FIFTH FLOOR ---
OKAY, JUNIOR... YA CAN KNOCK OFF THE FIREWORKS!
I AIN'T NO TALENT SCOUT FOR THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW!
SORRY, BEN! I JUST COULDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES!
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER... BUT THE MAD THINKER FOUND SOME WAY TO TURN YOU AGAINST US, AND--
HEY!!
NOW WHAT?!!
BEHIND YOU, BEN!! COMING IN FROM OUTSIDE!! LOOK..!!
IT'S THE CRUMMY ROBOT!! THE ONE I BELTED CLEAN THROUGH THE WALL!
WHAT'S HE TRYIN' TA DO... MAKE ME FEEL INSECURE??
IT'S NO JOKE, BEN!
HE'S PROBABLY INDESTRUCTIBLE!
WATCH IT!! HE'S ATTACKING!
GLAD YA TOLD ME, BRIGHT EYES!!
HOW CAN BEN STOP HIM??
THOOM!
HE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL MY EXPLOSIVE FLAME-BLASTS!


THERE'S STILL ONE THING I CAN DO...
I'LL INTENSIFY MY FLAME... MAKE IT HOT ENOUGH TO MELT HIS CIRCUITS!!
I'M BETTIN' HE UNDERSTANDS YA!
LOOKA THE WAY HE'S TURNIN' AROUND!
BUT THEN, BEFORE THE THING CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE...
GETTIN' IN MY LUNGS ...CHOKIN' ME... CAN'T... BREATHE..!
GAS!!... SHOOTIN' OUTTA HIS FINGERS!
SHOOSH!
BEN COLLAPSED!!
...AND THE ANDROID... HE'S CAUSING HIS BODY TEMPERATURE TO DROP...
BELOW THE FREEZING POINT!
NOW HE'S HURLING BLASTS OF COLD AT ME...
JUST AS HE INUNDATED BEN WITH THE GAS!
HOW DO YOU BEAT SOMEONE LIKE THAT??
HE CAN DO ALMOST ANYTHING!
EVEN THOUGH I CAN DODGE THE BLASTS...
THE COLD WAVE IS FILLING THE ENTIRE LAB!!
I CAN'T MAKE MY FLAME HOT ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND IT!
NOT WITHOUT SCORCHING REED, BEN AND SUE!!
12

THEN, WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE INEVITABLE OCCURS ...
I'M ... TRAPPED AGAINST ... THE WALL ...
ENCLOSED IN ... AN ICE-CRYSTAL ENVELOPE!!
MY FLAMES--CAN'T ESCAPE!! PRESSURE IS INCREASING ...!!





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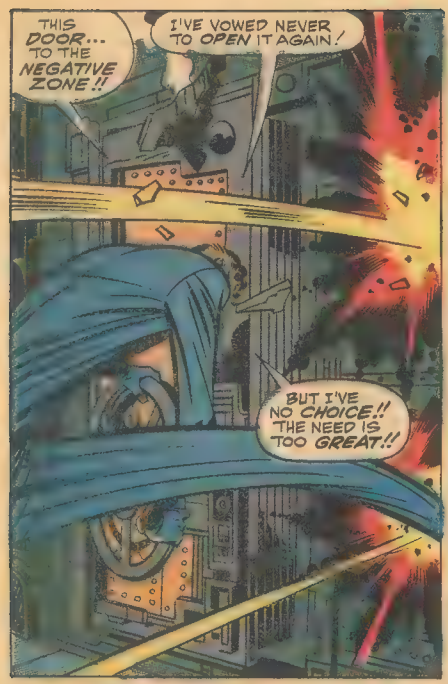
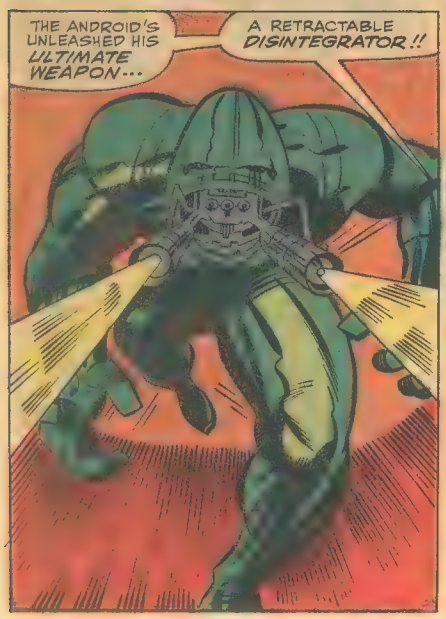
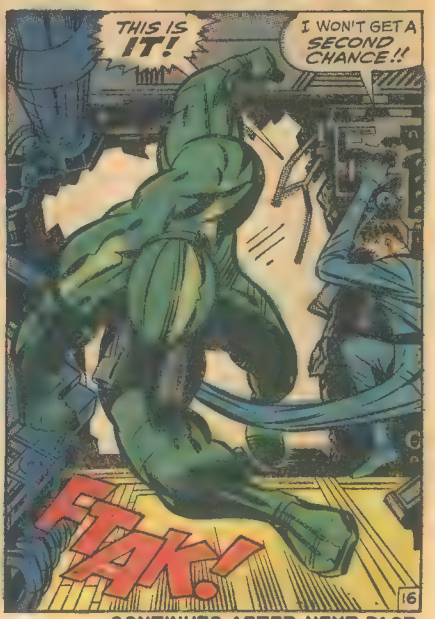
WE'LL BOTH GO!
I COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF--- LOSING YOU AGAIN--!!
NO!! YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH! IT'S MY FIGHT NOW!! I WON'T LET YOU!
YOU'VE SHARED EVERY DANGER... ALL THESE YEARS!!
BUT NOW... WITH THE BABY COMING... YOU CAN'T!
YOU MUST STAY BEHIND--- THAT'S AN ORDER, SUE!!
WILL IT--- NEVER END??
MUST IT ALWAYS BE... LIKE THIS..?
JOHNNY AND BEN ARE STILL IN THERE!
I CAN'T LET THEM DOWN IF THEY NEED ME!
JOHNNY!!
BEN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!!
THE THINKER HAD PLAYED HIS LAST CARD!!
THAP!
14.

ARRHHHH!!
HE'S... REGENERATING... HIS BODY'S ELECTRIC FORCE..!
JOLTING IT BACK AT ME... THROUGH MY ARM..!!
CAN'T... HOLD ON... ANY LONGER!!
IF I DON'T LET GO... I'LL BE ELECTRO-CUTED!!
I'VE..GOT TO... RELEASE HIM..!
HE'S COMING... AFTER ME... NOW!!
BUT... I'M TOO WEAK TO FIGHT HIM!!
NEED TIME... MORE TIME... TO RECOVER FROM SHOCK..!
BLAM
IF I CAN JUST HOLD OUT... FOR A FEW MINUTES..!
I'VE GOT TO FEND HIM OFF...
IF I DON'T... THE OTHERS ARE DOOMED!
NOW... MORE THAN EVER... I CAN'T FAIL THEM!!
15







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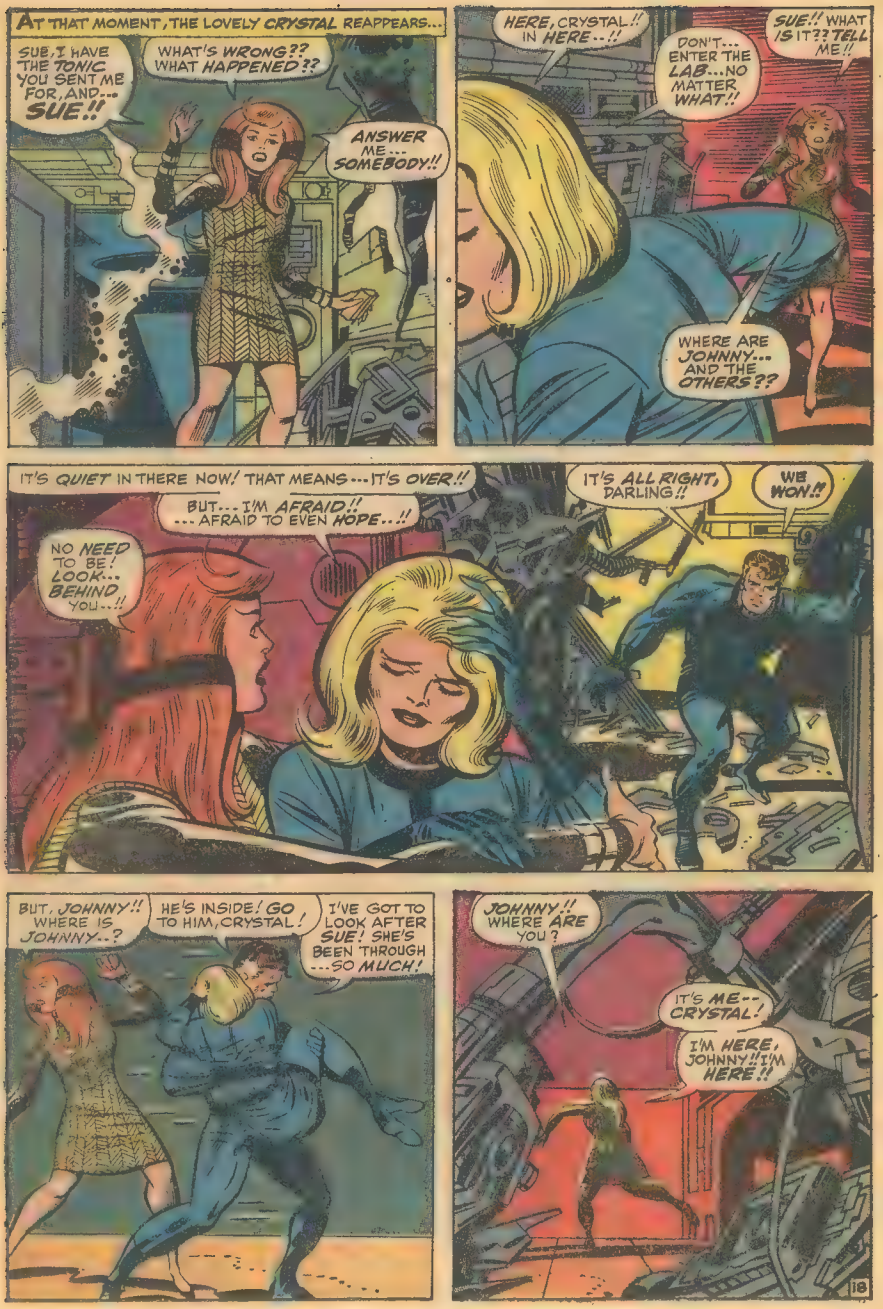
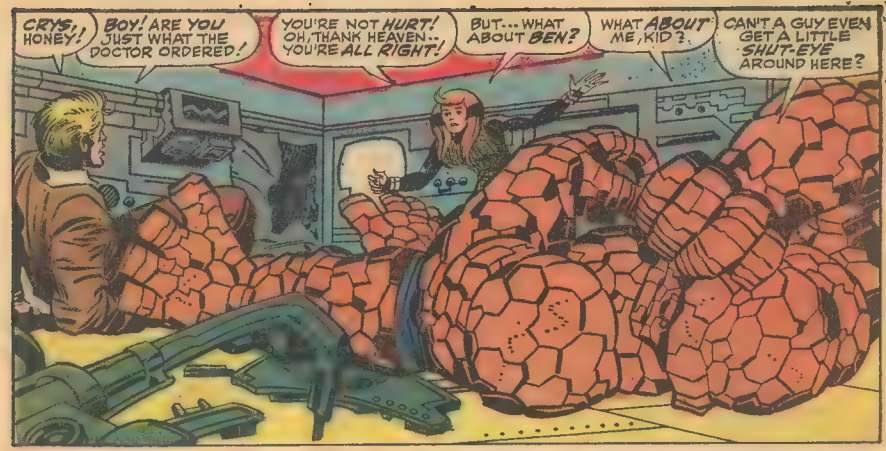
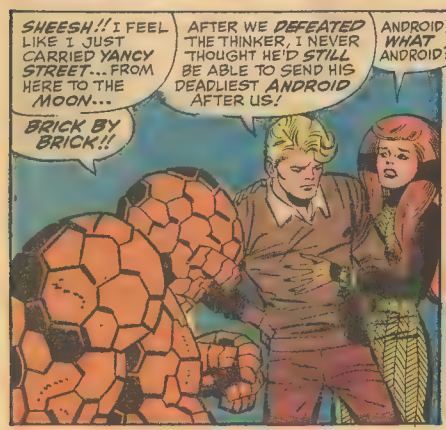
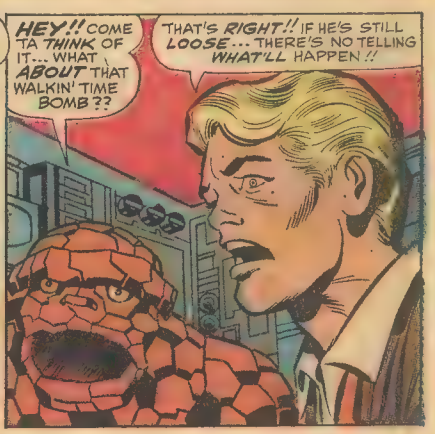
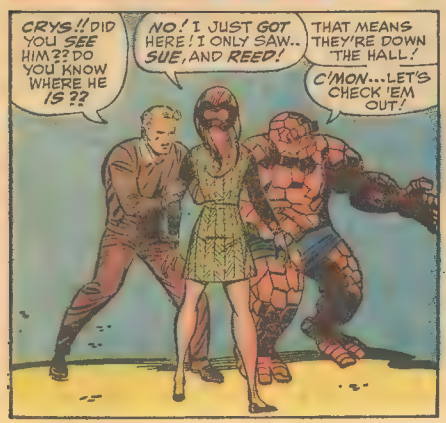
I DID IT!
HE'S STUMBLING THROUGH THE BARRIER... INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE!!
ONCE HE PASSES THE DISTORTION AREA...THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!!
HE'S FINISHED... FOREVER!!
ETERNALLY LOST IN THE ENDLESS REACHES OF AN ANTI-UNIVERSE!!

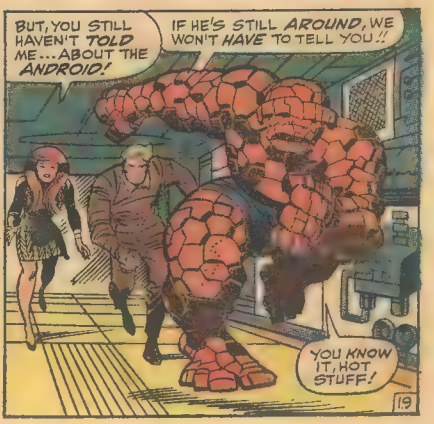

AT THAT MOMENT, THE LOVELY CRYSTAL REAPPEARS...
SUE, I HAVE THE TONIC YOU SENT ME FOR, AND--- SUE!!
WHAT'S WRONG?? WHAT HAPPENED??
ANSWER ME--- SOMEBODY!!
HERE, CRYSTAL!! IN HERE--!!
DON'T--- ENTER THE LAB--- NO MATTER WHAT!!
SUE!! WHAT IS IT?? TELL ME!!
WHERE ARE JOHNNY--- AND THE OTHERS??
IT'S QUIET IN THERE NOW! THAT MEANS--- IT'S OVER!!
BUT--- I'M AFRAID!! --- AFRAID TO EVEN HOPE--!!
NO NEED TO BE! LOOK--- BEHIND YOU--!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DARLING!!
WE WON!!
BUT, JOHNNY!! WHERE IS JOHNNY--?
HE'S INSIDE! GO TO HIM, CRYSTAL!
I'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER SUE! SHE'S BEEN THROUGH --- SO MUCH!
JOHNNY!! WHERE ARE YOU?
IT'S ME--- CRYSTAL!
I'M HERE, JOHNNY!! I'M HERE!!
18

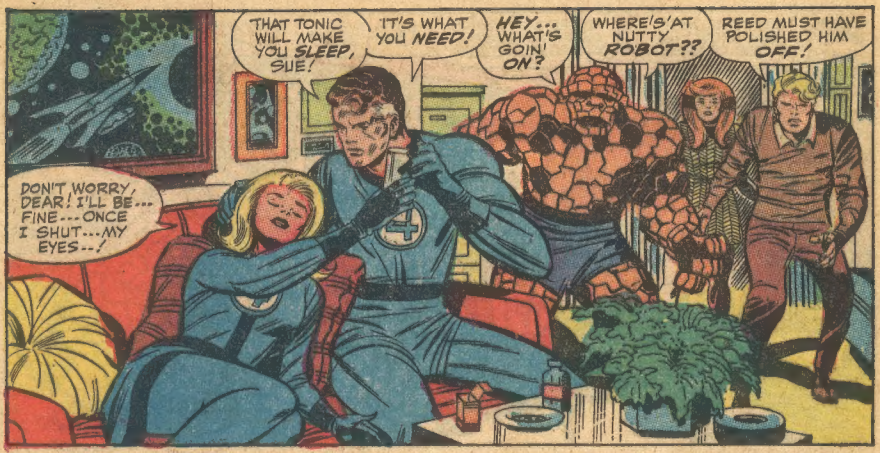

CRYS, HONEY!
BOY! ARE YOU JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
YOU'RE NOT HURT! OH, THANK HEAVEN.., YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
BUT... WHAT ABOUT BEN?
WHAT ABOUT ME, KID?
CAN'T A GUY EVEN GET A LITTLE SHUT-EYE AROUND HERE?


SHEESH!! I FEEL LIKE I JUST CARRIED YANCY STREET... FROM HERE TO THE MOON...
BRICK BY BRICK!!
AFTER WE DEFEATED THE THINKER, I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D STILL BE ABLE TO SEND HIS DEADLIEST ANDROID AFTER US!
ANDROID? WHAT ANDROID?

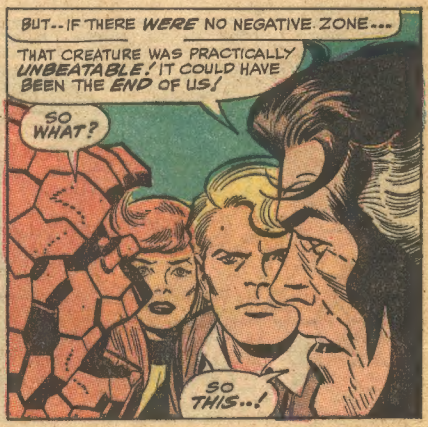

HEY!! COME TA THINK OF IT... WHAT ABOUT THAT WALKIN' TIME BOMB??
THAT'S RIGHT!! IF HE'S STILL LOOSE... THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'LL HAPPEN!!

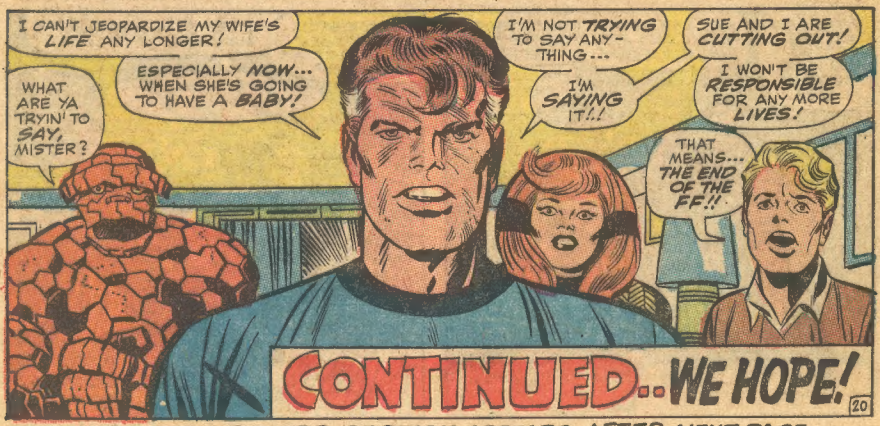

CRYS!! DID YOU SEE HIM?? DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS??
NO! I JUST GOT HERE! I ONLY SAW.. SUE, AND REED!
THAT MEANS THEY'RE DOWN THE HALL!
C'MON... LET'S CHECK 'EM OUT!


BUT, YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME... ABOUT THE ANDROID!
IF HE'S STILL AROUND, WE WON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU!!
YOU KNOW IT, HOT STUFF!


THAT TONIC WILL MAKE YOU SLEEP, SUE!
IT'S WHAT YOU NEED!
HEY... WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
WHERE'S 'AT NUTTY ROBOT??
REED MUST HAVE POLISHED HIM OFF!
DON'T WORRY, DEAR! I'LL BE... FINE--- ONCE I SHUT--- MY EYES--!

KEEP IT QUIET, HEAR? I JUST GOT SUE TO SLEEP!
AS FOR THE ANDROID... HE'S FINISHED!
I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO TRAP HIM IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE!


BUT--IF THERE WERE NO NEGATIVE ZONE...
THAT CREATURE WAS PRACTICALLY UNBEATABLE! IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF US!
SO WHAT?
SO THIS..!


I CAN'T JEOPARDIZE MY WIFE'S LIFE ANY LONGER!
ESPECIALLY NOW... WHEN SHE'S GOING TO HAVE A BABY!
WHAT ARE YA TRYIN' TO SAY, MISTER?
I'M NOT TRYING TO SAY ANY-THING---
I'M SAYING IT!!
SUE AND I ARE CUTTING OUT!
I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MORE LIVES!
THAT MEANS... THE END OF THE FF!!
CONTINUED..WE HOPE!
20

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

Fantastic Four 4 Fan Page

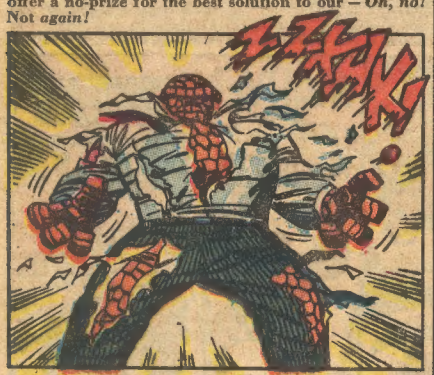
Send letters to: LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

The F.F. SPECIAL was beyond belief! I went from cover to cover without even stopping to take a breath. You only made one mistake — in the credits you list Joe Sinnott as the inker, when credit should be given to Frank Giacoia for inking this masterpiece — shouldn't it? I was overjoyed to see the Inhumans, Black Panther, Silver Surfer, and Stan and Jack (?) — that was a plot? I was glad to see Frank Giacoia on Iron Man and SHIELD as he's one of my favorite inkers. Jim Steranko's artwork in STRANGE TALES #162 was fabulous. It's about time you got rid of Tales of Asgard, and you couldn't have picked a better replacement. Lastly, but not leastly, I've got to hand it to Larry Lieber on the job he did on the SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL. I will restrain myself from further praise so you guys won't have eyestrain all the time.

John Arvites, 128 Maple Ave.
Wilmette, Illinois

That* kind of eyestrain we can put up with *anytime*, Johnny boy! And chalk up one no-prize for yourself for catching our calamitous credit boo-boo! It was, as you so nobly noticed, none other than fearless Frank Giacoia who inked this year's F.F. SPECIAL! The way we're handing out our valuable no-prizes lately, it won't be long before we run out of them! Then what'll we do with all our left-over no-stamps? Maybe we can offer a no-prize for the best solution to our — *Oh, no!* Not *again!



Dear Stan and Jack,

I would like to know how Mr. Fantastic pulls himself back together after he stretches. It doesn't look as though he can pull himself together at will. As an example, you often show him hanging around all unraveled. Please, please explain!

Wayne Cobb, 1419 Pitner
Evanston, Ill. 60201

All right, already — but first, give us a chance to dust off our copy of "Marvel's Manual of Instant Answers to Scientific Queries!" There, we've got it . . . and now, we quote from page forty-five: "Although after extensive expanding Reed Richards can return his body to normal at will, his powers can be overtaxed! When this occurs, he must gradually let the molecular structure of his body return to normal at its own pace!" How's *that* for the straightest answer of the year?

Dear Stan and Jack,

F.F. SPECIAL #5 was excellent. The story was great, the art was great, the inking was great, and even Benjy was great! Stretcho's surprise announcement added just the touch of realism that only Marvel can portray. Just think, a real live honest-to-gosh baby — and Ben a godfather! As usual, the pinups were marvel-ous. But I did, alas, find one mistake. In the Surfer saga, our silvery friend mentions that nowhere else in the universe did beings slay harmless creatures for sport. But if memory serves me correctly, did not all True Believers witness Morrat, in the company of Princess Arnelle (both of the Skrull Galaxy), slay defenseless creatures for his own pleasure in F.F. #37? And, I might add, against the Princess's wishes! The prosecution rests!

Jerome Colwell, 120 Wharf Rd.
Capitola, Cal.

Then, if it please the court, the defense is prepared to begin! We do not deny that said Morrat did indeed slay harmless creatures for sport in said past issue! However, is it not possible that said Silver Surfer missed that particular hunting party? And is it not possible that other beings of said Skrull Galaxy do not partake of the sport known as hunting? Unless the honorable prosecutor has other information on which to base his case, we ask that the court dismiss the charges for lack of evidence! Then, for your kind and generous decision, we thank you, Judge Forbush! Court is adjourned! (Whew!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

Everytime I read an issue of the F.F. featuring the Silver Surfer, I ask myself two questions — how can one be so strong yet so helpless? How can one have so much knowledge yet be so ignorant? I feel for and with the Silver Surfer. I worry about him as a fellow being and as a character. His character is changing for the worse. Where he was once a being with his own moral code, he is becoming a being with a moral code much like our own. Where he was once an outsider trying to understand human emotion, he now feels them himself. He is more human than you or I as far as emotion is concerned. I know people will disagree with me on this but I feel that the SS should be stripped of his power. He is too ignorant to possess the power he now possesses. He may not be as lucky next time as he was with Quasimodo and the Hulk. He could unleash a horrible menace on the Earth as he did with Quasimodo. The Silver Surfer beith unworthy! So be it! 'Nuff sayeth I!

Esau Simmons, 383 E. 143 St.
Bronx, N. Y. 10454

We'll buy that! If you'd said any more, we'd be out of one swingin' silver-colored surfer! However, since it isn't just *every* world that's lucky enough to have a ho-daddy like him shooting pipelines in the sky — we kinda think we'll keep him around! Who knows — if nothing else, maybe we can get him a part in one of those bouncy beach flicks!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Today, after an especially frantic waiting period from last month, F.F. #67 came out. "Oh boy", thought I, "I'll bet the ol' F.F. are really going to have a great rock 'em and sock 'em story.". That's what I thought. Sorry to say, I was somewhat disillusioned. It seems to me that this ish was really mushy. I mean, I've seen some dillies but this takes the cake. Then I thought it must be an optical illusion. Stan Lee wouldn't completely skip over the action which has made the F.F. the "World's Greatest Comic Magazine". So I made a scientific survey, using the famed scientific method taught me by Miss Fuzz' book on advanced genetics for backward 3rd graders. The Thing, famed for his direct method for dealing with baddies, appeared in 32 panels. Yet, of those 32, he was doing something active like tearing apart machines in only 3! The Torch runs a close second in being active. He ap-

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

peared in a mere 24 panels, and was flamed on in only 7. As for Mr. Fantastic, he wasn't fantastic very often, and Mrs. Richards didn't become invisible even once! Now fair's fair, and I understand that you're only human, but gee willikers, please have more action! I'm down on my knees asking you — did you ever try to type on your knees? Anyway, I've one more point to make. Why don't the F.F. have a pet? Take the Torch for an example — are you going to deny this normal lad the right to his own puppy? Perhaps Lockjaw could have puppies, if you don't mind incidentals like the fact that Lockjaw's a male. None of your heroes have pets. Peter Parker's got a motorbike, but how many motorbikes do you know that wag their tails when you pat them? It would seem that Marvel is distinctly against animals! Thanks for your time.

Charles Smith, 421 E. Maryland Ave.
St. Paul, Minn. 55101

Don't mention it, Charlie! But we'd really appreciate it if you'd get the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals off our backs! What do we have to *do* to prove our proclivity for pets? Can't you just see titles like "The Fantastic Felines!", "Daredoggie!", and "The Mighty Mongrels!"? We'll think your idea over, though! If nothing else, maybe the Sub-Mariner could get a pet guppy!

Dear Stan and Jack,

This is to inform you wonderful guys that your most terrific creation, as seen through my eyes, is not an immortal, an all-powerful alien, or a scientifically bred Inhuman, but rather a man called Reed Richards. He is my favorite Marvel character. He speaks not in the "I'm hip" manner of Daredevil and Spidey, nor the illiterate fashion of Nick Fury, Ben Grimm, or Hawkeye. I never get tired of hearing him explain things like the "universal molecular atom disrupter" because it not only is a change from the usual "see a villain, fight a villain, beat a villain" story line, but also because it brings forth the true wizard-like talents of Stan and Jack! Corbett Besco, Rt. #3, Box 123
Ironton, Ohio 45638

We sort-of agree with you, Corby — but did you have to put it in those exact words? Ever since they read your liltin' letter, we haven't been able to get The Man and The King off that blasted yellow brick road! And if they're not skipping along with some chick named Dorothy, they're trying to send the rest of the Bullpen to Kansas in a balloon! You don't suppose...? Naaah, not a chance!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Despite a fan's objections and your obviously reluctant retraction, the Silver Surfer had it right the first time in F.F. #61. He said, "Throughout the galaxies... on every distant star... one truth is known... that which is reaped must one day be sown." The three postulations for the creation of the universe each state in different ways that the matter which comprises the physical universe today was present before in a different form, and some time in the future will make up a different universe. The "pulsating" or "cycle" theory says that the universe expands and contracts in long cycles; the "steady state" theory says that the "dust" from stars which are destroyed clots together to make other stars; the "big bang" theory postulates an exploding universe rushing outward into a space which many say is curved back on itself. Anyway, what the Silver Surfer obviously saw in his travels throughout the universe was that everyone who has some effect upon the matter in the universe today changes to some degree the character of the next universe. Thus, what we do today, especially the super-heroes who have a greater effect upon the world, will one day be sown in another future. So you were right at first, and you didn't know it! Your comics are often slow in getting over here, so this letter is probably too late to have any bearing upon what is by now a forgotten subject, but I just wanted to let you know that some of us enjoy amplifying the thoughts in your books.

L/Cpl. Alan K. Gray, 2239368 USMC,
DPP-10, H&S Co., FLSG-A, FMFPAC,
FPO, San Francisco, Cal. 96602

And some of the thoughts in our mags certainly *need* amplifying, Corp! Just to show how grateful we are to you for explainin' that one, we're gonna send you a genuine, thought-provoking, laboratory-tested no-prize! Then maybe you can explain *that* to us!

Dear Stan and Jack,

After reading F.F. #67 and witnessing the birth of Him, I just had to write. You have truly hit upon something big with the introduction of the orange (gold?)-skinned, blonde, husky, handsome, powerful, and wise entity known as Him. What really grabbed me was the cocoon with the row of protruding growth on each side and the energy ring near the top which gave the impression that Him was to be an insect-like monster. The cocoon captured the element of surprise when, lo and behold, the true appearance of Him was revealed. You, who have introduced such characters to support the F.F. as the Black Panther, Silver Surfer, and the Inhumans, have again brought another remarkable character into the light to take his place among all of Marveldom. Many thanks, Stan and Jack, for yours is the touch that makes this the Marvel Age of Comics! Richard Adams, Rt. #1, Box 439
Oakland, Md. 21550

And yours are the words which keep the Marvel Age of Capricious Confusion merrily marching along, tiger! As long as we get letters like yours to massage our minds and salve our souls, you can bet your centerfold pin-up of Aunt Petunia that we'll keep sockin' it to you! Only one thing bothers us... who Him?

Dear Stan and Jack,

Speaking of your F.F. ANNUAL #5, the best part was the Silver Surfer feature at the end. The Silver Surfer must have his own comic book — a full 20 pages. Please take a chance and publish him in his own book. Larry Lieber can pencil it since we've seen the fine job he did in the SPIDEY SPECIAL. I must just mention that on page 18, last panel in the Special, the Psychoman says, "With Component Four now in my possession..." but on page 3, 5, and 8, it is referred to as Component Five! Wha' happened? Terrence Mule, 4848 Opal Ave.
Norridge, Ill. 60656

Whattya mean, *wha' happened?* We mentioned that component on four different pages and only goofed *once* — and you're *complaining? We* think we deserve a plethora of plausive praise for 75% accuracy!

NEXT ISH: This one you must not miss! It sets the stage for much of the wonderment which is yet to come! You'll see a gallant Reed Richards make one of the most dramatic sacrifices in all of comicdom! You'll see the startling decision of the Invisible Girl! You'll see a great new super-villain posing a deadly new danger to the greatest superhero team of all time! You'll see Stan and Jack at the peak of their talents, depicting the Thing and the Torch at the peak of their power! You'll see sights which none but a True Believer wouldst dare behold! In short, O Faithful One, you'll see why now, more than ever, the fabulous FF is truly the World's Greatest Comic Magazine! (You'll also see a heartbroken Bullpen weep if you miss FANTASTIC FOUR #72—and we know you'd never want *that* to happen!) Excelsior!

Fantastic Four

scanned by *Wizard*